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PROVISIONAL SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 32nd MEETING

Held at Headquarters, New York,
on Friday, 12 July 1996, at 10 a.m.

President: Mr. KOVANDA (Czech Republic)
(Vice-President)

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In the absence of Mr. Gervais (Côte d'Ivoire), Mr. Kovanda (Czech Republic), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS: REPORTS OF SUBSIDIARY BODIES, CONFERENCES AND RELATED QUESTIONS (continued)

(a) SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT (continued)

The PRESIDENT recalled that the Council had postponed adoption of a decision regarding the status of non-governmental organizations placed on the Roster. Since there was a working group which was dealing with that issue, he suggested that the Council should postpone further consideration of the item until the working group's report was available.

Mr. ACUÑA (Costa Rica), speaking on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, agreed, adding that the Council could take an interim decision, on the basis of paragraph 34 of its resolution 1296 (XLIV), to enable non-governmental organizations which had participated in the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development to contribute to the preparatory process for the special session of the General Assembly on the implementation of Agenda 21, which was scheduled for 1997.

Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, agreed that consideration of the matter should be deferred for the moment, adding that it must be addressed as soon as possible.

Ms. WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT (United States of America) agreed that it would be preferable to wait until the report of the working group became available, but stressed that the Council must take action on the matter promptly.

(d) NATURAL RESOURCES (continued) (E/1996/31)

The PRESIDENT drew attention to the draft resolutions and draft decisions contained in chapter I, sections A and B of the report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its third session (E/1996/31).

Ms. WILLIAMS-MANIGAULT (United States of America) requested that action on the draft resolutions should be deferred pending the holding of informal consultations.

Mr. SINGH (India) suggested that the Council could take action on procedural decisions at the current meeting. If informal consultations were to be held, they must take place as soon as possible. The Council was under increasing pressure to use the assistance and input of experts in technical fields. Since the report of the Committee on Natural Resources had been prepared by just such a group of experts, the Council must give it serious consideration.

Mr. MURPHY (Ireland), speaking on behalf of the European Union, said that all the matters currently before the Council should be discussed further in informal consultations. He fully agreed with the representative of India that action must not be deferred unnecessarily.

(e) ENERGY (continued) (E/1996/24)

Mr. GOUMENNY (Observer for Ukraine) said that his delegation welcomed the report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development on its second session (E/1996/24), adding that, in his view, the Council should adopt the two decisions contained in the report.

The United Nations must address the realities of energy resources for the developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Cooperation on energy matters was very important to the Government of Ukraine, and its decision to shut down the remaining section of the Chernobyl power station would have a major impact. It was facing many technical difficulties in that process, but problems relating to shutting down obsolete power stations would become important to many other countries as well. The International Atomic Energy Agency should address the issue of sustainable and safe energy systems. It was his delegation's hope that the groundwork for such systems would be laid at the current session of the Council.

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.